

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 225

Introduced by Assembly Member La Suer

June 18, 2002

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 225—Relative to
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 225, as introduced, La Suer. Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program.

This measure would commend the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program and the off-highway recreationists community on the 30th year anniversary of their program.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 1971, the California Legislature acknowledged
2 the tremendous growth in the number of off-highway motor
3 vehicles being used for recreation in California and recognized
4 that legislation was urgently needed to satisfy the demand for
5 adequate recreation facilities for off-highway vehicles and to
6 provide the restraints necessary to ensure recreational
7 compatibility on public lands between various user groups; and
8 WHEREAS, Twenty-one separate items of legislation were
9 introduced in 1971 to address the need to properly manage
10 off-highway vehicles, including Assembly Bill 2342 which was
11 authored by Assembly Members Eugene 'Gino' Chappie and Ed
12 Z'berg and signed by the Governor on December 22, 1971, as
13 Chapter 1816 of the Statutes of 1971, and the majority of
14 Assembly Bill 2342 consisting of the Chappie-Z'berg

1 Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Law of 1971 (Section 38000 of the
2 Vehicle Code and following) became operative 30 years ago, on
3 July 1, 1972; and

4 WHEREAS, The California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle
5 (OHV) Recreation Program has been in existence for 30 years and
6 has grown to encompass over 100,000 miles of roads and trails
7 statewide; and

8 WHEREAS, The Legislature established a self-funding
9 mechanism whereby off-highway vehicle recreationists would
10 have appropriate areas designated and maintained for their use in
11 a manner consistent with good environmental practices; thus, no
12 money comes from the General Fund to support the California
13 OHV Recreation Program, and the off-highway vehicle
14 recreationists have directly contributed over \$500 million to the
15 Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund over the last 30 years and the
16 OHV Recreation Program has awarded over \$200 million in grants
17 to local and federal agencies to date; and

18 WHEREAS, There have been dramatic increases in Green
19 Sticker and street-licensed four-wheel drive registration, and there
20 are currently 506,585 street-licensed four-wheel drives registered
21 and 489,380 Green Sticker registrations, and despite the 108
22 percent increase in Green Sticker registrations and the 74 percent
23 increase in street-licensed four-wheel drive registrations, the
24 amount of available acres of land for off-highway motor vehicles
25 use has been steadily decreasing; and

26 WHEREAS, The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation
27 Program has partnered with the California Police Activities
28 League to teach over 2,000 at-risk youth how to operate and enjoy
29 off-highway motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles under the
30 Off-Road PALS program, and the Off-Road PALS program
31 focuses on off-highway motor vehicle safety education while
32 motivating at-risk youth to improve behavior, encourage
33 responsibility, and learn skills that will be carried through life; and

34 WHEREAS, Off-highway motor vehicles enable the disabled
35 and the elderly to access remote forests and desert areas; and

36 WHEREAS, The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation
37 Division is developing a contract for a certified State Training
38 Organization to implement the All-Terrain Vehicle Program for
39 the state; and



1 WHEREAS, OHV clubs donate many hours of labor each year
2 to clean wilderness areas and assist in revegetation programs; and

3 WHEREAS, There are six existing snow vehicle recreation
4 areas (SVRAs) in California, visited by 1,993,494 people in
5 1999–2000, and SVRAs and SNO-Parks provide areas for both
6 motorized and nonmotorized recreation and offer affordable
7 recreation to young families with tight budgets (at the Oceano
8 Dunes SVRA 70 percent of the 1.1 million visitors are families,
9 and families account for half of the visitors to the Ocotillo Wells
10 SVRA); and

11 WHEREAS, The research, monitoring, and protection of the
12 Western Snowy Plover and the Least Tern at the Oceano Dunes
13 SVRA exceeds that which is found at all but a few California
14 beaches, and the Hollister Hills SVRA contains a nature preserve;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The attendance at SNO-Parks has dramatically
17 increased to 415,000 annual visitors, 42 percent of those visitors
18 being ethnic minorities, largely Hispanic, and 67 percent of
19 SNO-Park visitors coming to play in the snow; and

20 WHEREAS, The number of snowmobile registrations has
21 increased by 180 percent, but Oregon which has 2,000 fewer
22 registered snowmobiles than California has 4,000 more miles of
23 trails; and

24 WHEREAS, California's OHV Recreation Program is the
25 largest of its kind with the strictest environmental standards in the
26 country; and

27 WHEREAS, New regulations have been created and adopted to
28 bring the grant program into compliance with the off-highway
29 motor vehicle laws passed in 1992, and multidisciplinary teams
30 have been created to review grants in order to increase grant
31 accountability, and the grant funds for Off-Highway Motor
32 Vehicles Law Enforcement have been substantially increased, and
33 conservation activities are taking a much higher priority in OHV
34 grant allocations than in years past; and

35 WHEREAS, The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation
36 Division is committed to maintaining a proactive resource
37 management program; and

38 WHEREAS, Over 3.5 million California residents and 14.2
39 percent of all California households participate in off-highway
40 recreation activities annually; and

1 WHEREAS, Off-Highway motor vehicle recreation affects
2 43,000 jobs, and the economic impact of off-highway vehicle
3 recreation has grown to more than an estimated \$9 billion annually
4 to the California economy; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
6 *thereof concurring*, That the California Legislature acknowledges
7 the significant contributions the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle
8 Recreation Program has made to the quality of life in California;
9 and, be it further

10 *Resolved* That the California Legislature commends the
11 Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program and the
12 off-highway recreationists community on 30 years of a successful
13 program.

